

# SAWBRIDGEWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & SAWBRIDGEWORTH TOWN ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE

### Minutes

of the meeting of the Economic Development and STAP Committee held by Zoom conference at, Sayesbury Manor, Bell Street, Sawbridgeworth at 18:30 on **Tuesday 26 May 2020**.

#### Those present

Cllr Ruth Buckmaster  
Cllr Craig Chester

Cllr Greg Rattey  
Cllr David Royle  
*Cllr Furnace – ex officio*

*Cllr E Buckmaster - by invitation*

*Ben Wood – EHDC (part time)- by invitation*

#### In attendance:

R Bowran – Town Clerk

Joanne Sargant – Town Projects Manager

#### **E 20/01 ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN**

Cllr Royle was elected Chairman of the committee for the civic year 2020/21 *[prop Cllr R Buckmaster; secd Cllr Furnace]*

#### **E 20/02 ELECTION OF COMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN**

Cllr R Buckmaster was elected Vice Chairman of the committee for the civic year 2020/21. *[prop Cllr Royle; secd Cllr Furnace]*

#### **E 20/03 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Were received from Cllr Alder – IT issues and from Cllr Patel – business commitment

#### **E 20/04 PUBLIC FORUM**

There were no questions from members of the public on matters within the remit of the Economic Development and STAP Committee.

#### **E 20/05 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Pecuniary Interest by Members

#### **E 20/06 MINUTES**

**Resolved:** To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 09 January 2020 (E05) *[prop Cllr R Buckmaster; secd Cllr Rattey]*

**Q.** What was the progress on creating a Business Plan for the development of Town Green. **A.** Clerk said it had not been progressed.

It was agreed that in its formative stage it was more appropriate to consider the development of Town Green as a STAP item and to consider the operation of the developed area and an Amenities committee item.

**Q.** will the Town Green Working Party be involved in the business plan. **A.** Yes, suggested via a Zoom meeting.

## **E 20/07      ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

To review proposals for promoting economic development in the town.

Ben Wood (EHDC) described the walk about he had with Cllrs E Buckmaster, Burmicz, Rattey and Royle. This was a precursor to the Prime Minister's plan for opening up retail areas on 01 June and 15 June.

He also said all five town councils has met with EHDC by Zoom to discuss a framework for social distancing.

Phase 1 will concentrate on social distancing

Phase 2 will address stimulation of the economy.

Phase 1.

Traffic management was discussed and the unsatisfactory experiences in Hertford and Bishops Stortford were noted. HertsCC are preparing a scheme for Sawbridgeworth, no time scale was quoted. Agreed that Clerk should develop a preferred proposal from the drafts circulated for submission to EHDC as the lead for the project.

From the Hertford/Bishops Stortford experience it was agreed that consultation and communications were the key elements to success.

Several topics were examined:

- Conflict with published footway works in Bell Street. Will we have prior notice? Cllr E Buckmaster to investigate.
- Favoured scheme might include 2-way working at the top of Bell Street. Clerk to develop proposal.
- 10 – 20 mph speed limit vital to ensure pedestrian safety. Cllr E Buckmaster said proposals were in hand.
- Keep scheme simple, most signage is generic. EHDC to order and provide.
- Questions of enforcement.
- Schools Streets initiative
- Cycleway provision
- Emphasised that local people rather than Herts CC know the town's dynamics and must be consulted. Ben Wood said EHDC would lead.
- Timescale. Ben Wood asked for proposals by 29 May, these to come to him via Cllr E Buckmaster.
- Wider schemes such as that proposed by ARUP could commence when s106 monies become available,
- Information on the re-introduction of car park charges would be detailed in a press release on 27 May.

Phase 2.

Question of the introduction of a market.

- Ben Wood said has some limited funds to help with a launch.
- Projects manager said work had commenced on branding. In consultation with NABMA advice would be taken on timing and this also depended on what the changes to Bell Street would look like.
- Cllr R Buckmaster as markets champion agreed that the market should start in the Bell public house car park but that a permanent

location on Town Green would be better.

- Cllr E Buckmaster said that £132k of funding to be distributed in the form of Discretionary Grants had been provided to East Herts to assist the reopening of town centres and this would be announced in a press release on 27 May

## **E 20/08      ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

To consider any items for inclusion on future agendas.

- Development of Town Green
- Town Action Plan

Meeting Closed at 19:40